

## NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
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### ***Indiana's unemployment rate at 5 percent in May***

*State continues to outperform nation, neighbors*

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Indiana's unemployment rate remained the lowest in the Midwest and well below the nation in May, according to unemployment figures released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Indiana's preliminary ***non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 5 percent***, with no change over April's revised 5 percent unemployment figure. At the same time, the U.S. non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was reported at 5.3%, down slightly from April's 5.4 percent. Indiana continued to outpace its Midwest neighbors, with Illinois reporting 6 percent unemployment, Kentucky saw an 5.2 percent rate, Michigan's April rate was 6.3 percent and Ohio reported in at 5.4 percent unemployment.

In May, the state's estimated labor force (non-seasonally adjusted), or the number of people 16 years of age and older who are able and available for work, totaled 3,178,600 (preliminary), up from April's 3,176,400 (revised) figure. An estimated 3,021,100 Hoosiers were employed and 157,500 were unemployed in May 2004.

"Indiana continued to gain ground in May, as it has throughout the year," said Alan Degner, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the state agency that tracks employment trends. "By looking at these statewide numbers we see that more Hoosiers are working, while raw number of workers who are unemployed continues to shrink.

"This steady and continuous growth, in tandem with the low levels of people claiming unemployment benefits, recent jobs numbers which show growth across every sector and new business investments sprouting up throughout the state continue to give us hope that this is more than a seasonal trend," added Degner.

Using the same data, and adjusting the numbers for seasonal employment trends, the federal government reported that **Indiana's May preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent (preliminary)**, a slight increase from April's 4.9 percent (revised) rate. Meanwhile, the U.S. rate was **5.6 percent in May**, showing no change from April's 5.6 percent (revised) rate

Of Indiana's neighboring states Illinois reported 6.4 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, Kentucky reported in at 5.4 percent, Michigan saw 6.5 percent unemployment and Ohio's rate was 5.6 percent.

In calculating unemployment rates, two different types of numbers are provided. The first, known as the *non-seasonally adjusted rate*, estimate employment and unemployment without taking into account the effects of seasonal trends. In calculating the *seasonally adjusted rate*, employment that follows more or less a regular pattern each year, including holiday or summer employment is factored out of the estimate. These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other non-seasonal movements.

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Unemployment rates for individual counties, cities and metropolitan statistical areas will be available on June 25, 2004.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on Indiana's unemployment rate, contact the Indiana Department of Workforce Development at 1-888-WorkOne, or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

Technical Notes:

- In calculating employment figures, two different types of calculations are provided. The first, *non-seasonally adjusted*, provides information without taking into account the effects of seasonal trends. In calculating the *seasonally adjusted* information, employment that follows more or less a regular pattern each year, including holiday or summer employment is factored out of the estimate. The adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other non-seasonal movements.
- Unemployment rates for individual counties, cities and metropolitan statistical areas will be available on June 25, 2004.

**INDIANA V.S. U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES: MAY 2004**

<b><i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i></b>	May 2004p	April 2004	May 2003
Labor Force	3,178,600	3,176,400	3,197,400
Employed	3,021,100	3,017,100	3,041,700
Unemployed Rate	157,500 5.0	159,300 5.0	155,700 4.9

**U.S.**

Rate	5.3	5.4	5.8
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<b><i>Seasonally Adjusted</i></b>	May 2004p	April 2004	May 2003
Labor Force	3,166,800	3,180,200	3,185,100
Employed	3,003,700	3,022,900	3,023,800
Unemployed Rate	163,100 5.1	157,300 4.9	161,300 5.1

**U.S.**

Rate	5.6	5.6	6.1
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P= preliminary

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